

Indiana House of Representatives

News and Information

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BILL ON HOSPICE SERVICES COUNCIL SPONSORED BY BROWN GOES TO GOVERNOR

INDIANAPOLIS -- Legislators have given final approval to legislation co-sponsored by State Rep. Charlie Brown (D-Gary) that would establish a council designed to help the state enhance the quality of independent living services in Indiana.

Gov. Mitch Daniels now will consider Senate Bill 224, which creates the Statewide Independent Living Council to assist the State Division of Disability, Aging and Rehab Services in developing a statewide network of independent living centers.

"We need to focus on how to effectively care for the aging population of Indiana," said Brown. "It is important to find alternatives to nursing homes. People should be cared for in the manner that best suits them. This council will allow us to study new ways of caring for the disabled and elderly."

The council will consist of 20 members and will be made up of the directors of the independent living centers in Indiana, parents and guardians of disabled individuals, advocates for disabled persons, private business representatives, etc.

By establishing the council, Indiana will be able to receive federal funds for independent living centers.

State grants to provide financial support for developing independent living centers is in the bill as well, but the proposed budget for fiscal years 2006 through 2007 has no money to allocate to this fund.

Currently there are only nine independent living centers throughout the state.

The bill also addresses some ethical issues by preventing a member of the Home Health Care Services and Hospice Services council from having ownership interest in a hospice or home health agency or from serving on the directing board of these entities.

The bill removes restrictions that prevented members of this board from having a pecuniary interest in or providing services for home health care or hospice services.